

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-10 and 13-22 are pending. Claims 1 and 4-10 have been amended; claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled; and new claims 13-22 have been added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated November 17, 2004, the examiner:

- noted that an Abstract is required;
- noted the trademark Microsoft Excel should be capitalized in the specification;
- objected to claims 4-10 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form;
- rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,592 to Yoshikawa ("the Yoshikawa patent");
- rejected claims 3, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yoshikawa patent in view Courtier et al., Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition, ("the Courtier reference").

Note Regarding International Search Report and International Preliminary Examination Report

Applicants note that the International Search Report and the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER), as well as the references cited therein, for the PCT application to which the present case claims priority, were not listed on the Examiner's Notice of References Cited included in the current Office Action. The "Notice of Acceptance of Application Under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.494 or 1.495" for this case identifies the IPER and the International Search Report as having been received by the Patent Office. Applicants request that these documents be made of record in this case.

Objections to the Specification

The examiner noted that the application as filed did not contain an abstract of the disclosure, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b). An Abstract is attached hereto on a separate sheet.

The examiner also noted that the specification includes the use of the Trademark "Microsoft Excel," and stated that it should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology. As shown on Sheet 2 of this response, applicants have amended the specification to recite MICROSOFT EXCEL, in the two places within the specification in which it occurs (pages 1 and 9). Applicants note that the use of the trademark on page 1 is already accompanied by the generic terminology, while its use on page 9 is merely descriptive of the figure, which is a screen shot from a Microsoft Excel® spreadsheet.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 4-10 stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claims should refer to other claims in the alternative only, and cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim(s).

Claims 4-10 have been amended to recite single dependence from independent claim 1, and thus applicants request that the objection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Yishikawa patent.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"A method of displaying data in a software program on a multi-layer display, comprising the steps of:

- a) assigning a particular screen designation code to a first group of data, and
- b) assigning other screen designation codes to second and other groups of data, wherein the screen designation code determines on which screen in the multi layer display the group of data is displayed."

The Yoshikawa patent does not expressly or inherently describe a method comprising "assigning a ... screen designation code to a first group of data, ... assigning other screen designation codes to second and other groups of data, wherein the screen designation code determines on which screen in the multi layer display the group of data is displayed."

Rather, the Yoshikawa patent describes a "data calculator 101 compris[ing a] data structure editing section 102, calculation method editing section 103, managing section 104, calculating section 105, data structure network storage section 106, input section 107 such as a keyboard, mouse, or the like, and display section 108 such as a CRT." (See the Yoshikawa patent, col. 8, lines 31-37 and Fig. 1). A single display screen shown in Fig. 7 includes a menu 601, name entry 602 and lists 604, 605 and tables 606, 607, 608, displayed in a multi-element window system. (See *id.*, col. 9, lines 45-51 and Fig. 7). Thus, the Yoshikawa patent fails to describe "... assigning a ... screen designation code to a first group of data, ... assigning other screen designation codes to second and other groups of data as desired, wherein the screen designation code determines on which screen in the multi layer display the group of data is displayed," as required by claim 1.

Thus, since all of the limitations of independent claim 1 are not described, either expressly or inherently by the Yoshikawa patent, claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Likewise, claim 2, which depends from claim 1 and which recites additional features of the invention, are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as stated for claim 1. For the same reasons, claims 4-10, which depend from claim 1 and which recite additional features of the invention, are also believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yoshikawa patent in view of the Courter reference.

Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled, and thus the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of these claims is moot.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1, and thus contains all of the limitations of the base claim. As noted above, the Yoshikawa patent fails to describe "... assigning a ... screen designation

code to a first group of data, ... assigning other screen designation codes to second and other groups of data as desired, wherein the screen designation code determines on which screen in the multi layer display the group of data is displayed," as required by claim 1. The Courter reference fails to remedy this deficiency. Instead, the Courter reference discloses a typical spread sheet, in which sheet tabs and navigation buttons are provided to move to other worksheets and to scroll through sheet tabs, (see the Courter reference, p.543), and does not disclose using screen designation codes to determine on which screen in a multi layer display groups of data are displayed.

Thus, all of the limitations of independent claim 1 are not described, either alone or in combination, by the Yoshikawa patent or the Courter reference. Therefore, claim 3, which depends from claim 1 and which recites additional features of the invention, is believed to be allowable. Likewise, claims 4-10, which depend from claim 1 and which recite additional features of the invention, are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as stated for claim 1.

New Claims 13-22

New claims 13-22 have been added.

Independent claim 13 recites,

"A method of displaying data on a multi-layer display having front and back screens, comprising the steps of:
assigning a front screen designation code to a first group of data, and
assigning a back screen designation code to a second group of data;
wherein the screen designation code determines on which screen the first and second groups of data are displayed."

Independent claim 18 recites,

"A method of displaying data on a multi-layer display comprising the steps of:
providing a multilayer screen comprising front and back screens;
assigning a first screen designation code to a first group of display data;
assigning a second screen designation code to a second group of display data;
displaying the first group of display data on the front screen based on the first screen designation code; and
displaying the second group of display data on the rear screen based on the second screen designation code;

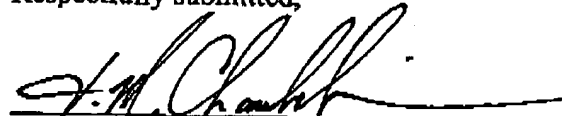
wherein the second group of display data is viewable through the front screen."

For the same reasons as identified above in relation to claim 1, new independent claims 13 and 18 are believed to be allowable. With respect to claims 14-17 and 19-22, which depend from claims 13 and 18, respectively, and which recite additional features of the invention, applicants believe these claims to be allowable for the same reasons as stated for claims 13 and 18.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due with this submission, however, should any fees be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,



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